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Message Text

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44
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 PM-07 SCI-06 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 NEA-11 OIC-04 DRC-01 (ISO) W
---------- 128755
R 291803Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9750
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 0586

STATE FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, UN, FR, BE
SUBJECT: ENERGY: BELGIAN VIEW OF FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR
US-SPONSORED ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 15406

1. ECOMCUNS DISCUSSED FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR UN-SPONSORED ENERGY CONFERENCE WITH PROSPER THYSBAERT, COUNSELOR IN FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE'S CABINET ON JANUARY 29. FOLLOWING OUR EXPOSITION OF USG POSITION, THYSBAERT EXPLAINED THAT GOB POSITION WAS GENERALLY SIMILAR TO THAT OF USG.

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2. ACCORDING TO THYSBAERT GOB DOES NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR

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VIRTUE TO A UN-SPONSORED ENERGY CONFERENCE AT THIS POINT BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. THE BELGIANS ARE ALSO PARTICULARLY CONCERNED NOT TO TAKE DIRECT ISSUE WITH THE FRENCH SINCE WITHIN THE EC CONTEXT TO DO SO MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

3. THYSBAERT ALSO EXPRESSED BELGIAN CONCERN OVER REPORT THAT UNDER SECRETARY DONALDSON WILL NOT RPT NOT BE VISITING BRUSSELS FOR CONSULTATION PRIOR TO WASHINGTON CONVERENCE. GOB IS "NERVOUS" ABOUT AN INTERNATIONAL CONVERENCE WHERE PRODUCEDURES AND OTHER MATTERS ARE LEFT UNCLEAR.

4. THYSBAERT ADDED THAT COMPOSITION OF BELGIAN DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON STILL NOT DECIDED. WHILE FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE WILL DEFINITELY HEAD DELEGATION (BRUSSELS 537) PRESENT STATE OF DISARRAY IN LOCAL POLITICS PLUS INTER-AGENCY MANEUVERING WILL PROBABLY LEAD TO LAST MINUSE DECISIONS ON OTHERS ACCOMPANYING FOREIGN MINISTER. IN FACT, THYSBAERT WAS NOT CERTAIN DIRGEN DAVIGNON WOULD BE ON DELEGATION.

5. COMMENT: WE BELEIVE THAT BELGIANS' CONCERN OVER ABSENSE OF PRIOR CONSULTATION APPLIES MORE TO CONSULTATION WITH THE EC THAN WITH BELGIUM ITSELF. AS THYSBAERT POINTED OUT, BELGIANS BELIEVE THAT, UNLIKE LARGER COUNTRIES, BELGIUM CAN HAVE NO EFFECTIVE POLICY EXCEPT AS IT IS EXERCISED THROUGH THE EC. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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